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Longridge Urban District Council



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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1952



L O N G R I D G E   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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1952/53

Chairman of the Council     : -

Councillor W.H. Riding

HEALTH and HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Chairman :-

Councillor E.C. Oakes

Vice-Chairman

Councillor G. Shuttleworth

Members :-

Councillor E.J. Melling     Councillor R. Holden

Medical Officer of Health

J. WALKER, M.B., ChB., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D., also  
Divisional Medical Officer to the Health Division No. 4.  
Lancashire County Council and Medical Officer of Health  
to the Leyland and Withnell Urban District Councils and  
to Preston Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector

V.N. Page M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A.  
also Cleansing Superintendent.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BERRY LANE,

LONGRIDGE. LANCs.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council  
of the Urban District of Longridge.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of Longridge during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Births

The number of registered live births assignable to the area during the year under review was 94, being an increase of 8 over the previous year. The Birth Rate rose slightly from 20.0 in 1951 to 21.4 in 1952. The corresponding figures for England and Wales as a whole are 15.5 to 15.3.

Infant Deaths

The number of infants who died before reaching the age of 1 year was 5 as compared with one the previous year. The causes of such deaths are given in the body of the report. The infant mortality rate is higher than that for England and Wales as a whole.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no deaths arising from diseases or accidents of pregnancy or childbirth.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

There was one death from tuberculosis in 1952 as compared with none in 1951.

Total Deaths.

The total number of deaths assignable to the district for the year 1952 from all causes amounts to 39 as compared with 63 in 1951. The crude death rate has dropped from 14.6 to 8.9 per 1000 population. The corresponding figures for England and Wales as a whole are 12.5 to 11.3.

The reasons for the lower death rate are accounted for by the number of deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system having fallen from 12 to 3 and those from influenza from 7 to nil.

Infectious Disease

During the year 1952 the number of cases of infectious diseases were 103 as compared with 36 in the previous year. The number of cases of measles increased from 16 to 96. Further details of this outbreak are given in the body of the report.

In conclusion I should like once again to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the kind consideration shown to me at all times. My thanks are also due to the Officers of the Council for their willing co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER.

September, 1953.



Physical Features of the Area.

The physical and geological features of the area, which have been described in previous reports, remain substantially the same.

Statistics of the Area.

Area in Acres	3,285
Population (Census 1931)	4,158
Population (Preliminary Census 1951)	4,308
Registrar General's estimate of Home Population (Mid 1952)	4,397
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931)	1,067
Number of inhabited houses (Ratebook 1952)	1,367
Rateable Value 1952/53	£26,719
Sum represented by a penny rate 1952/53	£105

Social Conditions and Amenities of the District.

There have been no changes worthy of comment in the Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area.

Vital Statistics.

Births

<u>Live Births -</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ... ..	50	43	93
Illegitimate ... ..	1	-	1
Total ... ..	51	43	94
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	21.4		

Still Births -

Legitimate ... ..	1	-	1
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-	-
Total ... ..	1	-	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ..	11		

Table of Vital Statistics  
Live Births, Deaths and Stillbirths

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths	
	No. Regis- tered	Rate Per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regis- tered	Rate Per 1,000 Pop'n	No. Regis- tered.	Rate Per 1,000 Total Births
Year 1952	94	21.4	39	8.9	1	11
" 1951	86	20.0	63	14.6	1	11
" 1950	76	17.7	47	10.9	2	26
" 1949	67	16.3	57	13.9	3	43
" 1948	100	25.1	60	15.1	3	29
" 1947	81	20.2	61	15.2	2	24
Average 5 yrs 1947 - 1951	82	19.9	58	13.9	2	26

The birth and death rates shown in the previous and subsequent tables are known as "crude" rates. The Registrar General issues a comparability factor based on age and distribution of population which should be used when comparing the vital statistics of one area with another. The adjusted rates for this area are therefore as follows, allowing for a birth comparability factor of 1.08 and 0.93 for deaths.

Adjusted Birth Rate	23.1 per 1,000/pop'n
Adjusted Death Rate	8.2 " " "



Table of Vital Statistics  
Maternal and Infant Mortality

	Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
			Total Under 1 year		Neo-Natal Under 4 weeks	
	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate Per 1,000 Total Births	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births.
Year 1952	Nil	Nil	5	53	2	21
" 1951	Nil	Nil	1	12	1	12
" 1950	Nil	Nil	1	13	1	13
" 1949	Nil	Nil	3	45	⌘	
" 1948	Nil	Nil	1	10	⌘	
" 1947	Nil	Nil	6	74	⌘	
Average 5 yrs 1947 - 1951	Nil	Nil	2	31	⌘	

⌘ The neo-natal figures are available only from 1950.

Comparative Table of Vital Statistics for Longridge, Lancashire and England and Wales

	Per 1,000 of population		Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality.
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Per 1,000 Total live & Still Births	Per 1,000 Live Births
Longridge Average 5 yrs 1947 - 1951 ...	19.9	13.9	Nil	31
1952	21.4	8.9	Nil	53
Lancashire 1952	14.3	12.2	0.80	30
England and Wales 1952	15.3	11.3	0.72	27.6

Analysis of Causes of Death

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (all forms)	1	-	1
Malignant Diseases	2	4	6
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	-	3
Heart Diseases	10	4	14
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
Accidental causes (not motor accidents)	-	1	1
	<u>26</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>39</u>

Diseases of the heart were again the dominant cause of death in both males and females.

Deaths from malignant diseases were four more than the previous year.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused respectively 1 and 2 deaths.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system produced 3 deaths. These deaths include all forms of "strokes".

There was one death resulting from an accident

# Infantile Mortality

There were five deaths of infants under 1 year as compared with one in the previous year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 53 per 1,000 live births as compared with 12 the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales as a whole is 27.6. The causes of death of the five infants are given below.

<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
Female	3 months	Asphyxiation by bed clothes accidental
Male	2 days	Prematurity. (27 weeks gestation)
Male	5 months	Haemorrhagic Broncho-Pneumonia Cerebral Oedema Mental Retardation
Male	4 months	Ac. Enteritis
Male	1 week	Icterus gravis neonatorum

## Tuberculosis

The table below gives age and sex distribution of the new cases and deaths

Age Periods Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
2	1							
5								
10				1				
15								
20								
25		1						
35	1				1			
45								
55								
65	1							
75 up- wards								
Totals	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-



There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis in 1952 and no deaths from non-respiratory cause.

The death rates per 1,000 of population from this disease are, respiratory 0.23 and non-respiratory 0.00. The comparative figures for England and Wales are 0.21 and 0.03.

There were six primary notifications (4 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory) during the year 1952.

There was a total of two persons removed during the year for the following reasons.

Left district	1
Died	<u>1</u>
	2
	---

The number of people on the Register at the end of the year under review is shown below.

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Male	Female	Male	Female
3	7	3	10
Totals 10		13	

Comparative Table of Tuberculosis Death Rates for Longridge, Lancashire and England and Wales

	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.		
	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	Death Rate from all forms of Tuberculosis
Longridge Average 5 yrs 1947 - 1951	0.20	0.00	0.20
1951	0.00	0.00	0.00
1952	0.23	0.00	0.23
Lancashire 1952	0.20	0.03	0.23
England and Wales 1952	0.21	0.03	0.24

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### Laboratory Services

The Laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary was used to examine specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious diseases, and for pathological specimens for ordinary diseases, for the bacteriological examination of milks, for tests for Tubercle Bacillus in milks, and for tests for ice cream.

### Hospital Accommodation

Infectious Diseases are normally admitted to the Joint Hospital at Heath Charnock and to Deepdale Isolation Hospital. The number of infectious cases admitted to hospitals in 1952 was 3.

General Disease. Three hospitals were available for patients in this district :-

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| (1) Preston Royal Infirmary                      | ) Administered by the Preston |
| (2) Sharoe Green Municipal Hospital, Preston     | ) and Chorley Hospital        |
|  | .. Management Committee.      |
| (3) St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston |                               |
| (For private patients).                          |                               |

Veneral Diseases. Clinics are held at the Preston Royal Infirmary. Advice and treatment are free and confidential.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

It has not been necessary to recommend the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention as envisaged by Section 47 of the above Act.

The provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, however, were considered during the year and power was given to take action in appropriate cases.

This Act gives local authorities further powers to enable them to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered medical practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom section 47 (1) of the National Assistance Act, 1948, applies, it is necessary in their opinion that he should be removed without delay from the premises in which he is residing, an application for a removal order may be made immediately to the appropriate magistrates. Any order made under these provisions is valid for a period not exceeding three weeks.

## COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

There are a variety of Health Services of the Lancashire County Council operated in the area and which are under the control of the No. 4 Divisional Health Committee, 44, Victoria Road, Fulwood, Preston, telephone no. Preston 7263.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE.

There are no Ambulance Stations in the area of the Longridge U.D. but the district is covered from other Stations in adjacent districts and generally the Penwortham Ambulance Station is used.

### HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

A team of three nurses serve the Longridge and district area. The duties of these nurses include care of patients in their own homes, and they arrange for the loan of nursing equipment in suitable cases. Expectant mothers who are confined at home are also attended by them.

### HOME HELP SERVICE.

Home Helps are employed in Longridge and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

There is a weekly Child Welfare session held at the School Clinic, 26, Kestor Lane, Longridge, every Tuesday afternoon. A doctor and Health Visitor attend and give advice on infant care and management. Baby foods are also sold at the centre.



### SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, 26, Kestor Lane, Longridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments, dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb, epileptics, delicate and backward.

### CONVALESCENT CARE

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

### WELFARE SERVICES

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who have no longer anyone to adequately care for them. Handicapped persons are also assisted.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The table below gives an analysis of notified cases.

	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Totals
Under 1	-	2	-	-	2
1 - 2	-	10	1	-	11
3 - 4	-	15	-	-	15
5 - 9	2	52	-	-	54
10 - 14	-	9	-	-	9
15 - 24	1	4	-	-	5
25 - 34	-	2	-	-	2
35 - 44	-	2	-	-	2
45 - 64	-	-	-	1	1
65 & over	-	-	-	2	2
Total cases all ages	3	96	1	3	103
Total Deaths	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total cases removed to Hospital	3	-	-	-	3

Measles notifications were higher than the previous year being 96 compared with 16. Whooping cough was less prevalent there being only one notification which was 8 fewer than the previous year.

Diphtheria was again absent from the District, the last notified case being in 1944.

The total notifications of 103 cases of infectious disease compares with 36 in 1951.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

The quality of the milk retailed within the District is high, over 90 per cent of which is Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) and is produced either within the area or in the District just adjoining the area, these conditions speak well of the progressive outlook of the farmers in the district.

The only pasteurised milk consumed in the district was at the schools and this supply has now been changed to Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled).

Sampling has been carried out throughout the year and the results have proved that a good standard of production was being maintained.

Of the results of raw milks which were mainly Tuberculin Tested, 17 samples of the 20 taken were satisfactory regarding the Methylene Blue Tests, and 19 of the 20 were satisfactory in regard to the presence or absence of B.Coli.

In all cases where samples failed the standard required by the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, the results were sent to the County Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for his information and action and also letters were sent to the milk producer concerned.

Thirty three examinations were made for the presence of live tuberculosis in the raw milks, all were reported negative, of the 33 samples 11 were taken at the Ashley Dairy which is mainly concerned in cheese making.

The County Sampling Officer for the district took 19 samples of milk in the District to be examined for adulteration and fat deficiency. Of these 6 were genuine. The result of the other 13 samples and action taken is shown below.

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1 informal milk	deficient 1.6 per cent. fat, ) freezing point indicated the ) presence of 8.1 per cent of ) extraneous water )	Same vendor, Formal samples obtained.
1 informal milk	deficient 1.6 per cent fat, ) freezing point indicated the ) presence of 9.1 per cent of ) extraneous water )	
1 formal milk	freezing point indicated the presence of 1.3 per cent. of extraneous water	Farm visited and further sample obtained.



<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
1 informal milk	freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1 per cent, extraneous water	Same vendor, formal samples obtained.
1 informal milk	freezing point indicated the presence of 0.3 per cent. extraneous water	
1 informal milk	freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6 per cent extraneous water	
1 formal milk	deficient 7.2 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 10.7 per cent. extraneous water.	<u>Prosecution</u> Vendor fined £10 and 8 gns. costs.
1 formal milk	deficient 18.3 per cent. fat, 11.4 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 10.5 per cent. extraneous water.	
1 formal milk	deficient 9.6 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 10.9 per cent. extraneous water.	
1 formal milk	deficient 16.6 per cent. fat, 14.1 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 10.5 per cent extraneous water.	
1 formal milk	deficient 12.7 per cent. solids-not-fat; 11.3 per cent extraneous water	
1 formal milk	deficient 8.3 per cent. fat, 13.5 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 10.0 per cent. extraneous water.	<u>Prosecution</u> Vendor fined £4 and 4 gns. costs.
1 formal milk	deficient 8.2 per cent. solids-not-fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 3.0 per cent extraneous water.	

The above thirteen unsatisfactory samples were taken from two farms and in each case a prosecution followed with the results shown.

None of this milk was retailed in the district both farmers sending it wholesale to a large dairy.

Meat and other Foods.

Inspections were made regularly of all premises where food was prepared, sold and stored.

Approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwts of meat and other foods were voluntarily surrendered to the Sanitary Inspector as unfit for human consumption. In addition 7 pigs belonging to private owners were examined at their request.

The County Sampling Officer also took the following 9 samples of other foods for laboratory examination.

2 zinc ointment	1 chemical food
2 glaubers salt	1 glycerine
1 tincture iodine	2 bread.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

Ice Cream.

Four samples of ice cream were submitted to bacteriological tests and subsequently graded into the provisional grades for cleanlinesss.

The following table shows the results of these tests since their introduction in 1947 following the Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Grade 1	4	12	5	11	3
Grade 2	1	6	3	1	-
Grade 3	3	4	4	-	1
Grade 4	3	5	3	2	-
Totals	11	27	15	14	4

Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory but Grades 3 and 4 usually indicate some fault in the method of production. Attention is drawn to the increased purity of this product since 1948 as shown by the above figures.

WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. E.C. Oakes, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., Engineer and Manager to the Preston County Borough Council for providing the following information.

The water supply to Longridge is controlled by the Preston Corporation Water Department and is an upland surface water collected from the Longridge Fell, it is of good quality and there was no restrictions upon the use of water during 1952, there being a full and continuous supply to all consumers.

The following table shows details of the water consumption in gallons during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1952.

	Domestic	Trade	Total
For Year	51,700,000	20,000,000	71,700,000
Average Per Day	141,644	54,795	196,439
Average Per Head Per Day	31	11.9	42.9

Quality

The Laboratory for the Waterworks is situated at Longridge where week by week checks are made upon the chemical and bacteriological characteristics throughout the year.

In the case of water supplied to Longridge 10 bacteriological examinations and 4 chemical analyses were carried out all of which were found to be satisfactory.



The following is a chemical analysis of a sample of water taken in Longridge on 24th March, 1953.

		<u>Parts Per 1,000,000</u>
Total solid Residue (Dried at 180°C)		90.0
Oxygen required to oxydise	{ in 15 mins	0.11
	{ in 3 hours	0.23
Ammonia - Free and Saline		0.004
Ammonia - Albuminoid		0.022
Nitrogen as Nitrates		Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrites		Nil
Chlorides		16.0
Temporary Hardness		Nil
Permanent Hardness		36.0
Total Hardness		36.0
pH Value		7.3

Physical Properties                      Colour 7 Hazen      Odourless  
Remarks : The water is of good quality.

#### Supplies to Houses.

There were 8 houses newly connected during the year, 6 of these being new houses built for the Local Authority and 2 for private ownership.

At the end of the year the number of dwelling houses connected direct to the public mains were 1,330 serving an estimated population of 4,226. There are no houses in the district served by means of a standpipe.

#### General

The water has no liability to plumbo-solvency and the analyses show no contamination occurred during the year.

# DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The plans for the proposed Joint Sewage Scheme with Preston County Borough, Fulwood Urban District and Preston Rural District are continuing and meetings were held during the year to consider this matter.

The proposed new trunk sewer to relieve flooding within the district is nearing preliminary completion of the detail plans, and permission is awaited from the Minister to go out to tender and commence the work.

## Sanitary Accommodation.

The following comparative table shows the position for dwelling houses.

Type of Accommodation	1920	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952.
Freshwater Closets	493	1132	1203	1274	1293	1303
Waste Water Closets	400	306	281	242	232	212
Pail Closets	31	84	80	80	80	77
Privy	95	17	17	17	17	17
Bath	N.A.	546	583	610	634	642

N.A. = Not Available.

## PRIVATE STREETS AND BACK PASSAGES

The following streets were completed in 1952.

Alexandra Road	Severn Street
Warwick Street	Towneley Road
Green Lane (Part)	

## SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the District remains at five and is as follows :-

County Primary and Junior School	Chapel Street
Senior C. of E. School	Berry Lane
Junior C. of E. School	Berry Lane
St. Wilfrid's R.C. School	St. Wilfrid's Terrace
St. Micheals and All Angels School	Preston Road.

There is every indication that the local representatives on the Divisional Education Committee are fully alive to the need for still more schools.

HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of new houses completed during the year.

	Prefabricated		Traditional Permanent Houses	Flats
	Temporary	Permanent		
By the L.A.	Nil	Nil	6	Nil
By other L.A.'s	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other bodies or persons	Nil	Nil	2	Nil

Thirty houses were almost completed on the St. Wilfrid's estate and would all be occupied in the spring of 1953.

Details of repairs to dwelling houses initiated by the department will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

There were seven dwellings found to be overcrowded during the year involving 12 families and 46 persons, two of these cases were relieved providing more satisfactory accommodation for 12 persons.

No applications were made by private individuals for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

The Council have acquired a large dwelling house under the Housing Act, 1949, which when the proposed work is completed will provide six flat

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

The Factories Acts are administered by two separate bodies - Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectorate. The degree of control exercised by the local authority varies with the type of factory i.e., whether or not there is mechanical power installed. A close liason is therefore maintained with H.M. Inspectors on such matters.



The following tables show the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, within the district.

Type of Factory	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Non-mechanical	33	14	Nil	Nil
Mechanical	9	40	Nil	Nil
Building sites	3	7	Nil	Nil
Total	45	61	Nil	Nil

	Defects		Cases referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. Insp.	by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness.	6	6	-	-	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	-	-	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature	Nil	Nil	-	-	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation	Nil	Nil	-	-	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	Nil	-	-	Nil
Sanitary Conv.					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	1	Nil
(c) Not separate sexes	-	-	-	-	Nil
Total	10	9	-	1	Nil

NEW LEGISLATION

The acts, orders and regulations controlling many aspects of public health work are constantly changing and the following list, whilst not exhaustive, shows some of the relevant new legislation which came into operation during the year under review.

Transfer of Functions (Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards)  
Order 1952.

Public Health Meat (Amendment) Regulations, 1952.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Amendment Regulations, 1952.

Adoption of Section 14, Lancashire County Council  
(General Powers) Act, 1951.

Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1952.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
BERRY LANE,  
LONGRIDGE.

THE SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT  
for the year 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Council  
of the Longridge Urban District

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the years' activities.

In compiling the annual report an effort has been made where possible for the statistics to show comparisons with other years this enables the reader to form a better picture of the years' events, and to assess the trend that is occurring.

Improvements that appear to be of minor importance when considering the figures for one year show a considerable improvement when figures of preceeding years are examined. As an illustration, if the figures of the conversion of waste water closets are examined over the past five years the progress shown is much more gratifying.

Though the facts and figures given in the section dealing with Public Cleansing make pleasing reading, the salvage figures expecially are well above the average of comparable authorities, it is intended to improve where ever possible our collection and disposal of all salvageable materials.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

The details of inspections shown below represent the day to day activities of the routine work necessary to ensure that all nuisances are complied with as they arise.

That most of the work is carried out by informal action and improvements made without recourse to statutory action reflects the co-operation that exists between the public and the Health Department.

Bakehouses, Butchers and Greengrocers Shops	72
Drainage	198
Factories	61
Food Inspections	50
Farms, Dairies and Milkshops	20
Inspections under the Housing Acts	23
Ice Cream Premises	4
Infectious Diseases	7
Offensive Trades	2
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	164

carried forward

Refuse Collections and Disposal	99
Rodent Control	129
Schools	10
Shops	50
Smoke Observations	9

### HOUSING

Housing problems are likely to become more acute when considering the possible length of life of the older houses. There is a tendency on the part of some owners to consider that a house is satisfactory if there are four good stone walls, the fact that there is present insufficient light, overshadowing from other buildings a very small yard space, serious rising dampness and bad internal arrangements is overlooked and the prices paid for property of this type in the past has been above its true market value.

The cost of building new houses does make the conversion of old houses an economic proposition, but the faults outlined above must be faced and not allowed to continue.

The continued operation of the Rents Restrictions Acts in freezing rents is having an adverse effect on the proper maintenance of older property, and is causing houses which could provide useful accommodation for a number of years to fall into decay due to neglect on the part of the owner.

The Council in acquiring the Beacon Hostel and adjoining house have by means of the Housing Act, 1949, been able to provide good modern accommodation in the form of six self-contained flats, thus saving the subsidy which would be paid for the construction of six new houses.

### Repairs

Most repairs were carried out by informal action and 18 houses were rendered fit. Statutory notices were served in the case of 3 houses, 2 under the Public Health Act, 1936, and one under the Housing Act, 1936.

It was not found necessary to take legal action in any of these cases.

### Demolition

A demolition order was made in respect to one house 18, King St. due to it being found to be unfit for human habitation and dangerous, the house has not been demolished because of being part of a row which would take away necessary support from the other houses, the Council have acquired it for a nominal sum and the demolition will be carried out when circumstances permit.

RODENT CONTROL

The present arrangements for the Rodent Control Service continues to operate, as in the past, the part time Rodent Operator who is fully trained in the methods required by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and receives a refresher course each year, carries out all necessary work required to keep down infestations.

By agreement with the Infestation Division all dwelling houses are treated free, and commercial premises are charged on an hourly basis.

The table below shows the work carried out during the year.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwell- ing House	Agric- ultural	All other (incl. Business Premises)	Total
Total number of properties	4	1306	61	135	1506
Number of initial inspections	4	124	49	4	181
Number of Infested Rats	4	17	2	8	28
Properties Mice	-	13	-	2	15
Number of treatments by Local Authority	4	30	2	10	46

Two sections of the sewers were treated at six monthly intervals where infestations were found by previous test baiting

Altogether 40 manholes out of 200 manholes received treatment showing 9 partial and 7 complete takes.

The sewage works and the Thornley tip are regularly inspected for rodent infestation and treatments given when necessary.

The use of the anti-coagulant rodenticide has proved most successful in dealing with rat or mice infestations.



### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

It will be observed that there are still 212 waste water closets in use in the district despite the encouragement given to owners by the Council in giving a grant of £10 towards the cost of conversion.

These closets will prove an embarrassment to the owners in the near future, because of age and excessive wear, the difficulty being that there are no spare parts available for repairs, these circumstances may well assist in removing one of the most unsatisfactory and unhygienic closets ever invented.

Most of the 77 pail closets in use are in the rural areas and are mainly found at the farms or farm cottages well away from the sewage system. some of the pail closets have been dispensed with by the owners constructing septic tanks and filters, though the cost of such construction is preventing any large scale work in this direction.

During the year 20 waste water and 3 pail closets have been converted to fresh water closets.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfection was carried out on the premises where cases of Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis occurred. All library books were disinfected with formalin at the Council Office Depot before being returned to the County Library Branch or the Private Library.

Parcels of bedding and beds were destroyed when requested by occupier following the death of a relative.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Inspections of home killed pigs have been carried out when requested by the owner and found to be sound and free from disease.

Routine visits were made to Butchers Shops, Grocery Stores and other food shops and the under mentioned foods were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption and in each case was voluntarily surrendered by the shop keeper.

<u>Description</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Bartlett Pears	6			9	4
Cherries	1				15
Grapes	1			1	-
Grapefruit	2			2	8
Ham	4			28	14
Jellied Veal	3			18	-
Kippers	4			28	-
Luncheon Meat	1			3	10

<u>Description</u>	<u>No. of Tins</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
	Brought forward		3	8	3
Meat Loaf	3			8	12
Milk (evaporated)	11			11	10
Ox Tongue	1			6	-
Peaches	1			1	13
Pears	1 bottle				13
Pineapples	5 bottles			4	-
Raspberries	1				14
Plums	5			9	-
Prunes	1			1	-
Salmon	8			7	-
Smoked Haddock	2 boxes			14	-
		1	1	17	1

The food mostly concerned as being unfit was canned food having suffered damage in transit or being canned for too long a period.

Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.  
Section 14.

The provisions of the above Act relating to the registration of hawkers of food and their premises were adopted during the year and two hawkers and their premises were registered.

The above Act only applies where the hawker does not operate from an open shop.

MILK AND ICE CREAM

Milk Supply

The following are the details of registered distributors and actions taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Act and Regulations.

No. of registered distributors operating from :-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Dairy farms in the district.              | 3   |
| 2. Dairies in the district.                  | Nil |
| 3. Shops in the district other than dairies. | Nil |
| 4. Premises outside the district.            | 6   |

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 -

No. of dealers' licenses (including supplementary licenses) issued by the local authority during 1952 in respect of	"Tuberculin Tested Milk" 3
	"Accredited" Milk Nil

It was not found necessary to revoke or refuse to grant a license during the year.

The above does not include producer retailers carrying on business in the district who are not required to be registered with the Local Authority.

Ice Cream

The following details are given in respect of the number of licenses issued for the manufacture sale or storage of ice cream, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

Manufacture and Sale	5
Storage and Sale	13



## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

#### Collection

The collection of house and trade refuse continues weekly and will be maintained on the same basis in the future.

It is interesting to observe that since the weekly collection was commenced in the latter part of 1947 the number of new houses built has increased by over 10% of the number of habited houses in the district at that date, the cleansing collection service being worked with the one machine and same staff of three collectors and one driver foreman.

The fact that it was possible to maintain such a service with only one machine without any major breakdown or loss of collection time throughout the year reflects a credit to the staff and the care bestowed on a machine which is in its sixth year of constant use.

#### Disposal

Tipping is still being carried out on the Thornley Tile Kiln site using "Controlled Tipping" methods. There is still approximately 12 years left of the present lease in which to carry on tipping though the new owner has observed that he would like the tipping to cease as soon as possible, the difficulty of finding other suitable sites makes it impossible to comply with his request.

The purchase of a tractor with bulldozer blade and bucket has helped in maintaining the tip in good order and the constant use of an insecticide in the bins and on the tip has ensured that there is no nuisance from flybreeding, crickets or beetles.

#### Salvage

It will be seen in the figures given relating to salvage that our receipts have dropped 50 per cent though the weight of collection has remained stationary, this adverse figure of salvage receipts has been due to the large reduction in the price paid by the Thames Board Mills with whom the Council have had contracts since 1937.

In addition a national policy was adopted whereby all local authorities sending paper to the Mills should accept a reduction in the amount of paper that would be sent in, consequently the Council agreed to 4 tons a month as being their quota, the surplus paper being stored on the tip until conditions became more normal.

The disposal of wastepaper during this period has proved an embarrassment to some authorities who had no contracts with the Thames Board Mills.

The value of the contract held by the Council will be appreciated when

Table showing reduction in prices paid.

	Mixed Paper per ton	Newspaper per ton
1952	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1st January	16. - -	22. 15. -
31st December	7. 10. -	10. - -

The following is a summary of the Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Salvage during the financial year end 31st March, 1953, together with figures, for the preceeding financial year ended 31st March, 1952, and other figures of yield and disposal for comparisons.

Estimated weight of Refuse and Salvage Collected.

	1951/52			1952/53		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
House and Trade Refuse	914	5	-	933	3	-
Salvage	80	-	2	* 75	-	-
	994	5	2	1008	3	-

\* Note - This figure does not include salvage stored on tip.

Cost of Collection and Disposal

	1951/52			1952/53		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wages	919.	-	-	1,005.	-	-
Motor Transport	531.	-	-	517.	-	-
Sundries	109.	-	-	243.	-	-
Salvage cost of Baling bonuses	327.	-	-	468. *	-	-
Less Income	1886.	-	-	2,236-	-	-
Trade Refuse	11.	-	-	10.	-	-
Salvage Sales	1502.	-	-	711.	-	-
	373.	-	-	1,515.	-	-

\* Includes cost of new Salvage Trailer.

Weight of Salvage Collected and Sold.

	1951/52				1952/53			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Mixed Paper	30	14	3	-	30	14	2	12
Books and Magazines	7	16	3	-	6	8	2	-
Newspapers	13	13	3	-	10	7	2	-
Fibreboard	18	14	2	-	15	16	1	16
Ferrous Metal	4	16	-	-	7	19	1	-
Non-Ferrous Metal		1	2	-		5	1	16
Textiles	4	3	2	-	3	10	1	26
	80	-	3	-	74	19	-	14

Value of Salvage Sold

	1951/52			1952/53		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	462.	4.	7.	248.	18.	10.
Books and Magazines	266.	15.	7.	64.	12.	-
Newspapers	327.	1.	7.	119.	5.	11.
Fibreboard	227.	1.	10.	145.	10.	7.
Ferrous Metal	15.	6.	-	23.	6.	-
Non-Ferrous Metal	8.	15.	3.	30.	18.	10.
Textiles	129.	10.	3.	77.	14.	4.
Bonus Credit	37.	10.	-	-	-	-
	1,474.	5.	1.	710.	1.	-

The table below gives the yield of waste paper per 1,000 of population over the past seven years.

	Weight per 1,000 population per month	
	Cwts.	
1946	10.1	
1947	15.8	
1948	25.0	
1949	23.0	
1950	28.5	
1951	27.5	
1952	24.2	



Gross Income from Salvage for the past 10 years.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
1943	49	16	-	-	226.	3.	-
1944	26	7	-	-	155.	10.	-
1945	26	9	1	-	173.	4.	1.
1946	23	16	-	-	155.	16.	11.
1947	40	2	-	-	278.	6.	8.
1948	64	4	1	-	553.	3.	6.
1949	68	11	1		543.	3.	6.
1950	81	8	2	-	749.	7.	4.
1951	80	-	2	-	1,474.	5.	1.
1952	74	19	-	14	710.	1.	-
TOTAL	537	11	3	14	5,030.	1.	1.

- - - - -

CONCLUSION

May I tender my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and support.

My thanks are also due to my fellow officers and staff for their co-operation, and express my appreciation to Dr. Walker for his guidance and support.

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I am, Mr. Chairman Mrs. Smith and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

*V. A. Sage.*

Sanitary Inspector.





